



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release PM's, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1947

WILL DEVELOP HAWAIIAN FISHING INDUSTRY

Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug announced today that two experts of the Fish and Wildlife Service will begin preliminary discussions in Hawaii early next month on a program for the development of the high seas fishing industry in the South Pacific. Officials of the Territorial government will participate in the discussions.

The program, authorized by the last Congress, is expected to stimulate the development of the Hawaiian commercial fishing which in the view of officials has great potentialities.

Milton C. James, assistant director of the Fish and Wildlife Service (516 Goddard Rd., Bethesda) and Dr. H. J. Deason, chief of the Office of Foreign Activities (4526 Brandywine St., N.W.) will represent the Department at the Hawaii conference.

From Honolulu, they will proceed to Manila to inspect the progress made by the Fish and Wildlife experts who were assigned to the Philippine Fishery Rehabilitation Program early this year. This program authorized by the Philippine Rehabilitation Act of 1946 is designed to aid in the early restoration and development of the fishing industry which was almost totally destroyed by combat action and through confiscation by Japanese occupation troops during the war.

Prior to the war Japanese nationals controlled the offshore fishing industry in Hawaii and other Pacific islands. Because of this the Federal government must practically start from scratch to develop the offshore industry for the benefit of the residents of the islands. The Act which was sponsored by Delegate Joseph R. Farrington of Hawaii authorizing the Department of the Interior to undertake the Hawaiian program, directs the Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with Territorial and island officials to conduct explorations, technological and economic studies to insure the maximum development and utilization of the fish resources of the islands.

No appropriation was provided for in the Act and budget requests will be submitted at the next session of Congress.

The legislation provides for the construction of a fishery research laboratory and experiment station in the Hawaiian Islands and for the necessary substations, together with dock and storehouse facilities to be used in conjunction with the operation of research and experimental fishing vessels. It also provides for the procurement of three surplus vessels, a multiple purpose high seas fishing and oceanographical research vessel and two experimental high seas fishing vessels, and for their conversion and equipment.

At the end of the war, practically no modern vessels or fishing gear remained in the Philippines. The primitive inshore fisheries are totally inadequate for local needs. The rehabilitation program which is being carried out under the general supervision of the American Ambassador is for the purpose of aiding the restoration and development of the fishing industry. Oceanographic and biological studies and experimental operations at sea to provide basic information on the fishery resources of the Islands are being conducted. New and improved methods of fishing which might be adopted by the Philippines industry are being tested.

Hugh W. Terhune of the Fish and Wildlife Service, is the field administrator of the program with headquarters in Manila.

In addition to assisting the development of marine fisheries, the program will endeavor to improve the methods of the salt water pond fish industry, which provides a substantial part of the fresh fish supply for the Islands.

Two fishery research and experimental fishing vessels which the Service acquired by charter from the U. S. Maritime Commission, are now in the Philippines. One vessel, the former LT-581 which has been named the Spencer F. Baird in honor of the first United States Commissioner of Fisheries was converted into a combination oceanographic vessel and tuna clipper. The second, the former AMC-90, renamed the Theodore N. Gill, in honor of a famous American ichthyologist, has been converted into a combination fishing vessel, equipped to operate purse seines and various types of trawls.

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